

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 13324 281627Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 FAA-00 DOTE-00

L-03 SAJ-01 /072 W

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R 281620Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4187

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13324

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EAIR, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN BASC

REF: STATE 204204

1. ACTING HEAD OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT, FCO (DAVID BEATTIE), TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 28 THAT FCO IS AWAITING GOF RESPONSE TO ITS PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE CONTROLLER RESPONSIBILITY IN BASC ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY OF AIRCRAFT (REF US BERLIN 1730). BEATTIE, BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, EXPLAINED THAT THIS PROPOSAL ORIGINALLY WAS DISCUSSED IN BERLIN AND PRESENTED TO BRITISH AS AN ALTERNATIVE IN SOLUTION OF NORTH CORRIDOR PROBLEM. WHEN BRITISH DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH FRENCH IN PARIS IN EARLY AUGUST, BRITISH ASKED FOR FRENCH VIEWS ON NATIONALITY OF AIRCRAFT PROPOSAL MAKING CLEAR BRITISH HAD NOT FINALLY DECIDED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON TURNING OVER EXCLUSIVE NORTH CORRIDOR CONTROL TO FRENCH.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 13324 281627Z

2. EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD BEATTIE DEPARTMENT HAD NOW EX-

PRESSED PREFERENCE FOR TRANSFER OF NORTH CORRIDOR TO FRENCH CONTROL AND EXPLAINED SOME OF REASONING FOR THIS PREFERENCE.

3. BEATTIE SAID HIS "PERSONAL PREFERENCE" WAS ALSO FOR CORRIDOR CONTROL RATHER THAN CONTROL BASED ON NATIONALITY OF AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THIS WAS A PERSONAL POSITION AND HAD NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL CONCERNED PARTS OF HMG. BEATTIE HAD NO IDEA OF WHEN FRENCH RESPONSE COULD BE EXPECTED AND INDICATED FCO WOULD NEED EITHER TO HAVE FRENCH RESPONSE OR TO MAKE FIRM DECISION TO WITHDRAW PROPOSAL ON BASIS OF NATIONALITY OF AIRCRAFT INFORMING THE FRENCH OF THIS OFFICIALLY.

4. BEATTIE APPEARED UNINFORMED AS TO TIMING REQUIREMENTS SUGGESTED US BERLIN 1730, PARA 5. HE INQUIRED WHETHER ALLIED AUTHORITIES IN BERLIN HAD BEEN INFORMED OF NEED TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE LINES PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1 MOVE TO TEGEL.

5. BEATTIE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION CONVEYED ON THIS MATTER, PARTICULARLY SINCE US HAD PREVIOUSLY MAINTAINED NORTH CORRIDOR DECISIONS WERE TO BE MADE BY BRITISH AND FRENCH WITHOUT BENEFIT OF US SUGGESTION. HMG WOULD NOW CONSIDER MOST RECENT EXPRESSION OF US PREFERENCE (REFTEL) AND ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN HMG DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. COMMENT: BEATTIE TEMPORARILY SUBSTITUTING FOR KEN JAMES WHO HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE ON BERLIN AIR SERVICES PROBLEMS. HE IS THUS NOT COMPLETELY INFORMED ON BACKGROUND TO SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS BUT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DO HIS BEST TO OBTAIN HMG ACTION.

RICHARDSON

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